

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 104136 TOSEC 110405

STADIS//////////

EXDIS FROM MAW AND MCCLOSKEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PROSPECTIVE VETO OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL

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, E ARE INFORMED BY NSC THAT PRESIDENT HAS EXPRESSED
FIRM DECISION TO VETO SECURITY ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION
BILL ON SATURDAY. BILL WAS PASSED BY HOUSE AND SENATE
YESTERDAY AFTER FAILURE OF OPPONENTS TO RECOMMIT TO
CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, VOTE ON RECOMMITAL MOTION IN HOUSE
DEMONSTRATED AMPLE ABILITY TO SUSTAIN VETO.

2. DISCUSSIONS WITH WHITE HOUSE STAFF INDICATE THAT
PRESIDENT FOUND BILL'S INCURSIONS ON EXECUTIVE BRANCH
AUTHORITY UNACCEPTABLE TO A DEGREE THAT OUTWEIGHED
PREDICTABLE CONGRESSIONAL HOSTILITY TO VETO, PARTICULARLY
ON PART OF FOREIGN RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
COMMITTEES.

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3. PRELIMINARY REACTION BY CONGRESS, AS EXPECTED, HAS

BEEN EXTREMELY NEGATIVE. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF VETO, WE CAN EXPECT TO FACE SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED DIFFICULTIES FOR ADMINISTRATION'S LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM. MOST IMMEDIATELY,

RATIFICATION OF SPANISH TREATY MAY BE DELAYED OR SEVERLY COMPLICATED. IN ADDITION, UNTIL MAJOR DIFFERENCES WITH CONGRESS FLOWING FROM VETO ARE RESOLVED, FAVORABLE ACTION CANNOT BE EXPECTED ON BASE AGREEMENTS WITH GREECE AND TURKEY, BOTH OF WHICH INVOLVE AUTHORIZATIONS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE.

4. ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE HEAT GENERATED WAS THE ANGER EXPRESSED TO JOE BY THE FASCELL SUBCOMMITTEE, WITH EVEN MODERATES LIKE BUCHANAN CRITICISING THE PRESIDENT FOR THE PRECIPITATE DECISION TO VETO. IT IS CLEAR THAT CONGRESSIONAL IRRITATION IS FED BY THE 11TH HOUR NATURE OF THIS UNEXPECTED DECISION FOLLOWING MONTHS OF INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH EXECUTIVE BRANCH. (ALTHOUGH EXECUTIVE BRANCH REPS MADE SERIOUS PROBLEMS IN BILL KNOWN TO CONGRESS, ADMINISTRATION DID NOT GIVE CLEAR POLITICAL SIGNAL OF BILL'S UNACCEPTABILITY UNTIL PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT.)

5. IN ABSENCE FY1976 AUTHORIZATION BILL, WE WILL LACK FUNDS AND AUTHORITY NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT MIDDLE EAST PROGRAMS AND RESUME FMS SALES TO TURKEY. ADEQUATE FUNDING AND AUTHORITY FOR MIDDLE EAST CAN PROBABLY BE OBTAINED THROUGH AMENDMENT TO EXISTING CONTINUING RESOLUTION AUTHORITY, ALTHOUGH THERE IS RISK THAT SUCH AN AMENDMENT COULD RESULT IN AN UNBALANCED PROGRAM. AUTHORITY TO RESUME FMS SALES TO TURKEY IS LESS LIKELY TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THIS DEVICE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO FY1977 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, IT IS PROBABLE THAT HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE WILL RECOMMEND LEGISLATION BASED ON VETOED FY1976 BILL. IT IS TOO SOON TO TELL WHETHER ACCOMMODATION WITH COMMITTEE THAT MIGHT PRODUCE ACCEPTABLE LEGISLATION WILL BE POSSIBLE IN THIS ELECTION YEAR. SISCO

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